

10 Greenwich St. 12 July /47
(Monday noon.)

My dear Gray,

The second day after my arrival in town had well nigh proved my last! I went on to the back balcony to fill my ink-stand, & just as I was coming back again, something struck the top of my head with a loud report, & knocked me down. The noise brought up the 2 servants who found me bleeding freely, & the man immediately went for my brother & Dr. Beales. The wound was some 2-3 inches long, making a seam of about $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep in the skull, which it did not penetrate further, but glanced along - The great concussion caused me considerable pain, & some confusion, & Beales w^d. not let me do any thing but lie down (nor even read) for 2 days, during which time I was miserable enough in this lone house - However, thank God, all is now well, there is a seam in the bone, (I suppose always will be) but there is little soreness remaining - Beales said that the wound seemed too sharp for a grazing ball but of course we can no otherwise ~~the~~ account for the report which accompanied the injury, especially as no missile could be found - However, I persuaded myself that if I was shot, it was by a chance ball, as I cannot think that any one seeks my life, nor indeed do I know that I have an enemy in the world - However ~~this~~ may have been half an inch deeper must have killed me on the spot! The

houses at the back of Sam's house (which face on Washington St.) are of a very low grade, & contain an extremely equalized set of inhabitants, certainly, but why shd. they fire at me? I do not know one of them, even by sight. But conjecture is useless, I have great cause for thankfulness that the accidental (or malicious) ball was so mercifully directed - By Adams Express of this morning I send you the Mss. of the Salicaceae. I am sorry to say that my own herb. throws no further light on the difficult places - I have specimens which would have influenced me in some cases to make alterations, but for the old trouble viz. I cannot depend upon the leaves assigned to the aments by the collectors. It may be that there are more species than 2 in the S. discolor, but of those which I retain, not knowing what leaves really belong to them, I have little but the shape of the scale to rely upon, which I incline to fear is not a very reliable character - Barratt, in Wood's 2^d editn. has 5 species in this S. but after careful revision, I find no really contrasting char. between them - Like our friend Dewey's Carices, there are different words, of the same, or of insignificant, signification. Torrey has only S. discolor, without any Synonym^y or notice of the other species at all! so that I know not what may be his judgment concerning them, yet, if they really exist, they are all within his limits I suspect. Then again, he takes no notice whatever of the introduced species of S. fragilis, tho' I find I have from Sartwell what he calls S. decipiens, of which the leaves really look like it, but the aments are 5- and. I may, or may not belong to them. So far as my (small) personal knowledge goes, these species - S. frag. decip. Rupel. are 2- and. so says Rees Emery. (Smith) Pursh, Koch &c. tho' they admit

there are very rarely 3. But Barratt's specimens in Herb. S. I. C. have all got 5- and. aments (as you may remember) & it is remarkable that in Barratt's enumerⁿ in Wood's book he does not give the number of the Stamens in either of these 3 species, nor ^{Emerson not} any of the N. Am. botanists who enumerate them, except that Ph. puts S. decip. in his S. diandra - Upon the whole, I have concluded to leave my Mss. as I had prepared it, only substituting "Stamens commonly 2" for my previous arbitrary subsection - Stamens 2 - If these pentandrous aments really belong to the wide leaves with glaucous undersides to which Barratt, (following him Sartwell) attaches them, I strongly suspect, I suspect that there is something yet to be known respecting them - The plants I saw about Cambridge appeared to be all 2- and - Upon the whole then, tho' I am not satisfied with my work, I have not the means of mending it, & I prefer enumerating fewer species which can be made out, to swelling the list with others which cannot, until better known & characterised - Wood has 34 species, I have 22 (or 23 with the short notice of S. Bab.) & including S. purpurea, which he has not, so that he & his friend Barratt understand at least 10 species more than I can - Populus I leave untouched, as my materials give me no new light. You will see how I have given the derivation, & can adopt or alter it, as you will. This remark applies to the entire Mss. which you may alter at will, & still father all mistakes which may exist upon me, & to which I agree before-hand. I shall now go carefully

thro' my Carices of which my collec.ⁿ as to the common species, is really richer than yours, and as to the rarer ones, all honor to the Rumphford System! my double process of enlightenment has left me "comfortably to do in the world" - when I look at my plunder "some small remains of native truth" would abash me were it not for the solacing reflection that you have still enough, & I none too much after all, so that we may both rest content; & you more especially; as you cannot help yourself. I send back the key of your door, which I carelessly took away in my pocket! I found my dear Brother in a feeble state of health, certainly, but better than my fears led me to anticipate as he has had no return of the bleeding. He is stopping at a place called "Wheatheap" about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on this side Rahway & about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile off the public road. I spent 2 days there (3-4 hrs.) & they wish me to go there & work, and it may be that I shall do so, as my Revisio Caricum will be very leisurely conducted. I feel more than ever undecided as to my course, & very uncomfortable & distracted in my movements. As you do not want your Herb. paper until Sept. you may as well let the matter stand over for the present, if you have given no order - In the meantime, I will get an estimate from Smith here, which will be a guide for yourself, even if circumstances should prevent my requiring any - Of course, if you have given your order, I am ready to take my proportion, but I have increasing misgivings as to whether I shall ever use it - When you have done with the sheets of Dorey's 2.^d Vol. please to return them thro' me, as I want to minute in my own copy some ^{name} men^r & corrections I made in the Salicaceae - please

to make such a mem^{orandum} of this as will serve to keep
it in your mind. I have heard nothing of Torrey, & as I now no
longer see the newspapers, I have no news for you - Olney
received me very kindly, but it was a bracing afternoon
& I was wet thro', & very dirty & un comfortable - I made the
extract I wished at the "Athenaeum" but tho' I missed seeing
Mr. L. I had the pleasure of bidding adieu to his son &
Mr. Jackson (the latter I met accidentally) - Better than all,
my time admitted of my spending a few minutes with dear
"Baby Jane" - I beseech my warmest regards to her - I thought of
you both on the 4 July, when I ventured to hope you
were having "a nice time" together - If time
admits, acknowledge the receipt of the Mss.
which you may do in a few words as you will.

Say also, how far you have printed - I take this
opportunity to renew to you, my dear Gray, my earnest
thanks for your kind & friendly hospitality - May your
table soon be graced by a far brighter object, & may
many years of happiness be granted to you both -
Say all that is kind to your brothers, on my behalf,
& believe me, Very truly Yours's
Geo Carey

Tell in the author of Popi. dilatata (last line but 2
of the Mss.) I know not whether the specific name dates
earlier than him. & appear to have omitted it.

Prof. A. Gray,
Harvard Univ.,
Cambridge
Mass.

